

Remarks

Claims 1-7, 9-10 remain pending in this application after entry of this paper. The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,878,393 to Hata et al. The Examiner rejected claims 2-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hata et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,850,629 to Holm et al. The Examiner rejected claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hata et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,601,030 to Syrdal.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the features of claim 8. Claim 8 has been cancelled. Claim 8 was originally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hata et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,601,030 to Syrdal.

Newly amended independent claim 1 recites a method for converting text to concatenated voice by utilizing a digital voice library and a set of playback rules. The digital voice library includes a plurality of speech items and a corresponding plurality of voice recordings wherein each speech item corresponds to at least one available voice recording. The method comprises receiving text data and expanding the text data to form a sequence of text and pseudo words. The sequence of text and pseudo words are converted into a sequence of speech items in accordance with the digital voice library. The sequence of speech items is converted into a sequence of voice recordings in accordance with the set of playback rules. Voice data is generated based on the sequence of voice recordings by concatenating adjacent recordings in the sequence of voice recordings. The plurality of speech items includes a plurality of phrases. Converting the sequence of text and pseudo words further includes parsing the sequence of text and pseudo words to determine any phrases.

The Examiner has acknowledged that Hata does not disclose parsing the sequence of text and pseudo words to determine any phrases and relies on the Abstract, line 3 of Syrdal to show parsing text and identifying phrases. Hata discloses a text-to-speech reading system whereby stored text, such as numerical information, is processed by a word list

generator to develop a word list corresponding to those words that are to be spoken by the system. The words are concatenated to supply the sequence for audible synthesis. Thus, as acknowledged by the Examiner, Hata does not suggest parsing a sequence of text and pseudo words to determine any phrases as recited by original claim 8 and now recited by amended claim 1.

Further, Syrdal merely discloses a method and system for word concatenation to form a sequence of words, numbers, phrases, sounds, etc. However, the Abstract, line 3 of Syrdal fails to describe or suggest parsing the sequence of text and pseudo words to determine any phrases as recited by amended claim 1 as Syrdal only describes word concatenation (see Abstract). Thus, Syrdal fails to overcome the deficiency of Hata to achieve the claimed invention.

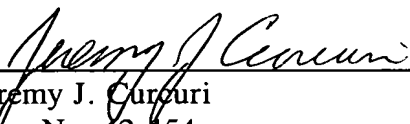
There is no motivation to combine the teachings of Hata and Syrdal to achieve the invention as set out in independent claim 1. Even any combined teaching fails to suggest the recited parsing as specifically set out in independent claim 1. As such, independent claim 1, as amended, is believed to be patentable.

Claims 2-7, and 9-10 are dependent claims and are also believed to be patentable. Claim 10 is believed to recite additional patentable subject matter. Claim 10 recites parsing the sequence of text and pseudo words to determine any syllables in combination with the other claimed features.

In summary, independent claim 1 recites subject matter that is not described or suggested by Hata or Syrdal individually, or in combination, nor is there any motivation to combine Hata and Syrdal to achieve the claimed invention. Specifically, Hata and Syrdal fail to describe or suggest parsing the sequence of text and pseudo words to determine any phrases. Thus, independent claim 1 is believed to be patentable. The remaining claims 2-7, 9-10 are dependent claims and are also believed to be patentable. Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

It appears the Information Disclosure Statement initially filed with the application has not been considered with this office action. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the IDS and enclose a copy for your convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
ELIOT M. CASE et al.

By 
Jeremy J. Curcuni
Reg. No. 42,454
Attorney for Applicant

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BROOKS KUSHMAN P.C.
1000 Town Center, 22nd Floor
Southfield, MI 48075-1238
Phone: 248-358-4400
Fax: 248-358-3351